

development aid. I commend him for his leadership in passing the American Overseas Interests Act earlier this year. Unfortunately, he has been put in a very peculiar and difficult position by the foreign operations bill, which reflects his priorities, I believe, but exceeds his committee's authorization level by \$24 million.

While I understand the gentleman's dedication to protecting the prerogatives of his committee, I cannot support his amendment. The development assistance account is, in my view, the backbone of this bill. The bill already effectively cuts this account by 40 percent, devastating programs in the areas of population, education, agriculture, microenterprise, and others that promote our interests overseas. Further cuts like the ones proposed in this amendment are counterproductive and should not be enacted.

I have a great deal of respect for the gentleman from New York, but I must reluctantly encourage Members to oppose his amendment today.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to comment on an issue of vital strategic importance to the United States—the future of Ukraine.

The Ukraine, situated in the middle of Sir Halford John Mackinder's celebrated "heartland" of the world, is of vital strategic significance to every nation in the region. Standing at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, the future of the Ukraine and its 52 million people will have a profound impact on the geopolitical complexion of Europe, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus.

Recently, the Ukraine has responded extremely well in its efforts to implement democratic principles, begin the conversion to a free market economy, and fulfill international treaty commitments. In particular, the period since the 1994 democratic election of President Kuchma has been a time of significant progress in several respects.

However, the United States commitment to the Ukraine has not been commensurate with the pace of Ukrainian reform. I understand the reluctance of the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations to provide specific country earmarks in this bill. However, this administration has been negligent in providing proportionate funding for the Ukraine under the authority of the Freedom Support Act. Ukraine's size, geostrategic significance, and commitment to important treaty obligations have not been reflected in the administration's distribution of Freedom Support Act funds.

Ukraine has fulfilled nuclear disarmament obligations, adopted democratic reform, made progress in economic reform, and boasts an excellent human rights record. In many ways, the Ukrainian record stands in stark contrast to that of the Russian Government.

Russia is the overwhelming recipient of the Freedom Support Act account. In response to several regrettable actions undertaken by the Russian Government, Congress has justifiably reduced our commitment to that account. It is the expectation of Congress that these reductions will be borne by Russia and not the Ukraine.

While I support the reductions in spending for the Freedom Support Act, these cuts should not come from the Ukrainian allotment. Congress will be watching the administration closely on this matter.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) having assumed the chair, Mr. HANSEN, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 1868) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 79, PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-164) on the resolution (H. Res. 173) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress and the States to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 38) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

□ 2115

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DIAZ-BALART). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I will not object, of course, but I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] for an explanation of his request.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, this resolution authorizes the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby races to be run on the Capitol Grounds on July 15, 1995, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House and President pro tempore of the Senate so designate. This free event is sponsored by the All American Soap Box Derby and its local affiliate, the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association. Its participants are young girls and boys from 9 to 16 years old who reside in the Greater Washington metropolitan area.

Pursuant to this resolution the association would assume full responsibility for any expenses involved with the

event and for any liability related to it. The association also agrees to make any necessary arrangements for the races with the approval of the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board.

For 50 years the Soap Box Derby races have taken place in Washington, D.C., and this will be the fifth time that the Capitol Grounds will be used for the races down Constitution Avenue.

Every year this event helps teach participating youngsters the basics of mechanics and aerodynamics as they design and build their race cars. It is truly an exciting event for the entire family.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution so that this activity may take place.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from West Virginia for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, the ranking Member, the gentleman from California, Mr. MINETA, my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland, WAYNE GILCHREST, and the gentleman from West Virginia, BOB WISE, for their strong support and continued assistance in expediting consideration of this bill today.

This resolution authorizes the use of Constitution Avenue between Delaware Avenue and Third Street for the 54th running of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on July 15, 1995. This competition is part of the All-American Soap Box Derby held later this summer in Akron, OH.

The resolution also authorizes the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police to negotiate a licensing agreement with the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to assure that there will be complete compliance with rules and regulations governing use of the Capitol Grounds.

For the past 4 years, I have proudly sponsored this bill along with regional Members and sports fans. It provides young boys and girls, ages 9 to 16, with an invaluable opportunity to develop and practice both sportsmanship and engineering skills.

This year, over 50 participants from Washington, DC and the surrounding communities of northern Virginia and Maryland are expected to participate in this year's event. I am pleased that boys and girls representing all five counties in my district will be competing in this year's derby.

The Soap Box Derby promotes a positive activity involving our young people. All too often, we hear many disturbing stories about negative activities youth are involved in.

I am reminded of a statement Ken Tomasello, the director of Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association, made to me 4 years ago when I introduced the first resolution for use of